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Mobile Radio System Project Now Underway

The Yukon government is implementing the second component of its new territory-wide communications system, Highways and Public Works Minister Archie Lang announced.

The new Mobile Radio System (MRS) is the second component of the Mobile Communication Solutions project, which is designed to meet current and future communications requirements for Yukon's emergency and safety professionals.

"This project represents a major step forward in our ability to coordinate and respond to critical situations that may arise," said Lang. "This project will significantly contribute to the welfare of Yukoners for years to come."

"This system will allow communication between emergency professionals within the territory," added Chief Superintendent Barry Harvie, Commanding Officer with RCMP 'M' Division. "The new system will provide one comprehensive communication system."

A 15-year service agreement has been signed with Northwestel to build, operate and maintain the network on behalf of the Yukon government. Earlier this year, a contract was signed with EF Johnson Technologies, which will provide radios, equipment and software for the system and will replace the current Multi Department Mobile Radio System.

"Our conventional Project 25 infrastructure system has an excellent reputation," Michael Jalbert, chairman and chief executive officer of EF Johnson Technologies, Inc. said. "Using industry-standard Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology, our Conventional IP25 system provides a secure, reliable and scalable infrastructure."

"Northwestel has completed significant network upgrades to accommodate the MRS system," Northwestel vice-president Ray Wells said. "Our company will provide the underlying network and ongoing support services. Northwestel is pleased to play a role in providing this important communication service to Yukoners."

Design and construction work will be carried out on the system's 43 sites over the next two years. The new system will officially replace the old system during 2010.

For more information, please visit our **website**.

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Contact:

Matthew Grant
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
matthew.grant@gov.yk.ca

Jennifer Magnuson
Communications, Highways & Public Works
867-667-3146
jennifer.magnuson@gov.yk.ca